

CLAIMS

What is Claimed Is:

1. An alarm indicating apparatus comprising:
 - a source of first synchronizing control pulses usable to synchronize alarm indicating output devices in a first, normal, mode of operation;
 - a communications medium;
 - at least one output device couplable to the source, via the medium, the device having a normal mode of operation responsive to the first control pulses and a second mode of operation, activated for a limited, predetermined time interval, upon being coupled to the medium, and responsive to different control pulses whereupon the output device emits at least one non-alarm indicium indicative of normal device operation.
2. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein the device includes circuitry to switch to a normal mode of operation in the absence of the different set of control pulses.
3. An apparatus as in claim 2 where the circuitry includes executable instructions to switch to the normal mode of operation in the absence of the different set of control pulses.
4. An apparatus as in claim 2 wherein the circuitry includes a programmed processor that switches the device to the normal mode of operation in the absence of the different set of control pulses.

5. An apparatus as in claim 1 which includes an additional plurality of output devices coupled to the medium, the plurality of output devices responds to the different set of control pulses and does not enter the normal mode of operation.

6. An apparatus as in claim 5 where the at least one output device becomes a member of the plurality subsequent to a predetermined time interval.

7. An apparatus as in claim 6 where the medium comprises a cable and the source couples electrical energy to the members of the plurality as well as the first control pulses and the different control pulses.

8. An apparatus as in claim 1 where the at least one output device, in a normal mode of operation, emits at least one of an audible alarm or visual alarm in response to applied electrical energy.

9. An apparatus as in claim 8 where the at least one output device, in the second mode, emits at least one of a non-alarm audible output or a non-alarm visual output in response to the different set of control pulses.

10. An alarm indicating output device comprising:
an input port for receipt of at least two different control signals as well as electrical energy;
at least one transducer for emitting human perceptible indicia; and

control circuitry coupled to the input port and the at least one transducer, the control circuitry responsive to applied electrical energy to cause the transducer to emit an alarm indicating output, and responsive to a selected control signal to emit a different output for only a predetermined time interval notwithstanding the subsequent presence of the control signal.

11. An output device as in claim 10 with the control signal comprising one of different levels or different pulses.

12. An output device as in claim 10 with the control circuitry including a programmed processor with executable instructions for responding to the selected control signals.

13. An output device as in claim 12 where the processor responds to control signals which comprise first and second, different pulse trains which modulate an electrical energy related signal.

14. An output device as in claim 10 where the at least one transducer comprises at least one of a visual output device or an audible output device, the device is operable to provide both an alarm indicating output and a non-alarm indicating output energized by the electrical energy from the input port.

15. An output device as in claim 14 with the control circuitry including a programmed processor for responding to at least the first and second different control signals.

16. An output device as in claim 15 with the processor including executable instructions that respond to the second control signal to emit output indicia for only the predetermined time interval measured relative to the initial receipt of electrical energy.

17. An indicating unit comprising:
a port for receipt of electrical energy and control signals;
control circuitry, coupled to the port, for receipt of the control signals, including circuitry for responding to the control signals to enter at least an install output mode, the install output mode being entered into in the on-going presence of the install mode control signals.

18. A unit as in claim 17 where the control circuitry includes a processor and instructions executable thereby to determine how to respond to the install mode control signals.

19. A unit as in claim 17 which includes instructions for establishing an install mode time interval.

20. A unit as in claim 17 which includes instructions for emitting an alarm output in the first output mode, or emitting an install output, in response to entering the install output mode but only in the presence of the install mode control signals.

21. A method of installing an electrical unit in a system comprising:
providing a first, non-alarm indicating signal sequence;
energizing a unit being installed in the system and coupling the first sequence thereto;
providing at least one of an audible or a visual indicator indicative of normal operation of the unit for a predetermined period of time during which the first sequence is coupled to the unit.
22. A method as in claim 21 where the unit reverts to a different mode of operation after the predetermined period of time.
23. A method as in claim 21 which includes modulating delivery of electrical energy with at least the first sequence.
24. A method as in claim 23 which includes coupling the first sequence to a second previously installed unit at a selected time, determining that the second unit was previously installed at an earlier time with the interval between the selected time and the earlier time exceeding the predetermined period of time and, responsive thereto, not providing the indicator of normal operation in response to the first sequence.
25. A method as in claim 21 which includes coupling the first sequence to another unit being installed; and

providing at least one of an audible or a visual indicator indicative of normal operation of the another unit for the predetermined period of time.